

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (New)

Flexible implantable structure for the sustained and controlled release of an active principle, consisting of a bioabsorbable support and an active principle intimately associated with said support, which exhibits a cohesion between the active principle and the bioabsorbable support that is induced by the wettability of one of the components of the structure, and in which the bioabsorbable support is formed of a mixture of an amorphous lactic acid/glycolic acid copolymer having a weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units ranging from about 80/20 to 20/80, and about 0.5 to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the support, of a biocompatible plasticizer selected from lactic acid, a lactic acid oligomer and a mixture of these compounds, said mixture of copolymer and plasticizer having a Tg below or equal to 15°C.

Claim 21 (New)

Implantable structure according to claim 20 in which the active principle is selected from local anesthetics,

morphine or non-morphine analgesics, healing factors, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, antifungals, corticoids, hormones, antimitotics, growth factors and a mixture of these active principles.

Claim 22 (New)

Implantable structure according to claim 21 in which the active principle is a local anesthetic.

Claim 23 (New)

Implantable structure according to claim 20 which is in the form of a yarn, film, hank, ribbon of parallelepipedal shape with a square or rectangular base, sliver, woven or non-woven fabric, plate, catheter, tablet, sheet or suture thread.

Claim 24 (New)

Implantable structure according to claim 20 which is in the form of a sandwich structure.

Claim 25 (New)

Implantable structure according to claim 20 in which the weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units preferably range from about 70/30 to 30/70.

Claim 26 (New)

Implantable structure according to claim 25 in which the weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units are about 50/50.

Claim 27 (New)

Implantable structure according to claim 20 in which the biocompatible plasticizer is 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the support.

Claim 28 (New)

Process for the manufacture of a flexible implantable structure for the sustained and controlled release of an active principle, consisting of a homogeneous composite structure with coherent interfaces, in which the bioabsorbable support is formed of a mixture of an amorphous lactic acid/glycolic acid copolymer having a weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units ranging from about 80/20 to 20/80, and about 0.5 to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the support, of a biocompatible plasticizer selected from lactic acid, a lactic acid oligomer and a mixture of these compounds, said mixture of copolymer and plasticizer having a Tg below or equal to 15°C, said process comprising the following steps:

a) mixing of the component products of the structure,

b) passage, with or without applied pressure, through a transfer chamber, either b1) at a temperature between the melting point of the active principle and the glass transition temperature or melting point of the copolymer, or b2) at a temperature that is above both the melting point of the active principle and the glass transition temperature of the copolymer, and

c) shaping of the implantable structure under pressure from this intermediate state.

Claim 29 (New)

Process according to claim 28 which also comprises d) a heat treatment step.

Claim 30 (New)

Process according to claim 28 which is a process of compression-transfer molding, injection-transfer molding, or extrusion or spinning with a preliminary transfer step.

Claim 31 (New)

Process according to claim 28 in which the mixture of products obtained in step a) is ground to give a particle

size ranging from about 5 to 150 μm , preferably from about 10 to 50 μm .

Claim 32 (New)

Process according to claim 28 in which the active principle is selected from local anesthetics, morphine or non-morphine analgesics, healing factors, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, antifungals, corticoids, hormones, antimitotics, growth factors and a mixture of these active principles.

Claim 33 (New)

Process according to claim 32 in which the active principle is a local anesthetic.

Claim 34 (New)

Process according to claim 28 in which the weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units preferably range from about 70/30 to 30/70.

Claim 35 (New)

Process according to claim 34 in which the weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units are about 50/50.

Claim 36 (New)

Process according to claim 28 in which the biocompatible plasticizer is 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the support.